

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BRASIL 04351 01 OF 02 281357Z

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ERDA-07 AF-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-09 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NASA-02 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-02

PRS-01 OES-07 SS-15 USIA-15 FEA-01 NRC-07 ACDE-00

/157 W

-----281402Z 115513 /40

P 281110Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1898

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BRASILIA 4351

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, PARM, BR, GW

SUBJECT: NUCLEBRAS PRESIDENT DISCUSSES BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR POLICY

1. SUMMARY. NUCLEBRAS PRESIDENT NOGUEIRA BATISTA, IN CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY, CALLED THE NPT "UNEQUAL AND INEQUITOUS," AND HE SAID THAT IF THE NPT HAS BEEN WEKENED THE SOLE BLAME LIES WITH THE US. BATISTA ASSERETED THAT BRAZIL SHORTLY WOULD OVERTAKE ARGENTINA IN NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT. HE CRITICIZED INTERNAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION AND EVALUATION OF NUCLEAR QUESTIONS, AND ALLEGED THAT "NOT EVEN IN THE MOST PERFECT DEMOCRACIES" DO GOVERNMENTS INFORM THE PEOPLE ABOUT SUCH QUESTIONS. BATISTA CLAIMED THERE IS NO CHANCE THAT THE BRAZILIAN-GERMAN AGREEMENT COULD BE MODIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BRASIL 04351 01 OF 02 281357Z

BY EXTERNAL PRESSURES. END SUMMARY.

2. ON MAY 25, THE PRESIDENT OF NUCLEBRAS, PAULO NOGUEIRA BATISTA, TESTIFIED ON NUCLEAR POLICY AND BRAZIL'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM BEFORE THE COMMISSION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF BRAZIL'S CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES. HIGHLIGHTS, AS REPORTED IN THE PRESS, FOLLOW.

3. NPT--BATISTA REPORTEDLY SAID THE NPT IS AN "UNBALANCED, UNEQUAL, AND INEQUITOUS DOCUMENT. ACCORDING TO O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, BATISTA COMMENTED THAT "IF THE NPT HAS BEEN WEAKENED, THE SOLE AND EXCLUSIVE BLAME OUGHT TO LIE WITH THE UNITED STATES. ACCORDING TO JORNAL DO BRASIL, BATISTA SAID THE DETERIORATION OF THE NPT IS DUE NOT TO COUNTRIES, LIKE BRAZIL, WHICH TRY TO UTILIZE NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES, BUT RATHER THE DETERIORATION IS DUE TO THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT'S OWN POSITION. BATISTA, ACCORDING TO O ESTADO, ASSERTED THAT THE NPT IS A MECHANISM BY WHICH "THE SUPERPOWERS ALONE TAKE CHARGE OF A SUBJECT WHICH CONCERNS ALL HUMANITY, THAT IS, THE PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY." BRAZIL, O ESTADO QUOTED BATISTA AS SAYING, IS NOT IRRESPONSIBLE, AND WILL NOT DIRECT ITS PROGRAM TO THAT END.

4. ACCORDING TO JORNAL DO BRASIL, BATISTA SAID BRAZIL HAS REFUSED TO SIGN THE NPT, IN SPITE OF BRAZIL'S DEFENSE OF NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION, BECAUSE "THIS DOCUMENT DOES NOT OFFER, ON THE PART OF COUNTRIES WHICH IDEALIZE IT, GUARANTEES TO NATIONS THAT NUCLEAR ARMS WILL NOT BE UTILIZED." BATISTA CONTINUED, ACCORDING TO JORNAL:, "BRAZIL IS A COUNTRY COMMITTED NOT ONLY WITH WORDS BUT ALSO WITH ACTS TO THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR ARMS, AS IS DEMONSTRATED IN THE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH GERMANY FOR THE PEACEFUL UTILIZATION OF NUCLEAR ENERGY. FOR THIS REASON, A DOCUMENT OF THE NATURE OF THE NPT IS HARD TO ACCEPT FOR NATIONS WHICH WANT TO USE THE ATOM

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BRASIL 04351 01 OF 02 281357Z

EXCLUSIVELY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES."

5. ARGENTINA--ACCORDING TO O ESTADO , BATISTA SAID ARGENTINA FACES DISADVANTAGES IN ITS PROGRAM BECAUSE "CANADA IS EXTREMELY COMPLICATED IN TERMS OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, WITH GREAT RESTRICTIONS MADE ON THE ARGENTINES." BATISTA, O ESTADO SAID, PREFERRED NOT TO MAKE FURTHER COMMENTS WITH RESPECT TO THE NUCLEAR PROGRAMS OF NEIGHBORS, EXCEPT THAT HE SAID BRAZIL WILL OVERCOME ITS CURRENT POSSIBLE DISADVANTAGES (COMMENT: WITH RESPECT TO ARGENTINA). ACCORDING TO JORNAL DE BRASILIA, BATISTA SAID "OUR NEIGHBOR IS IN DIFFICULTY IN THIS FIELD," AND HE ASSERTED THAT THE ARGENTINE PROGRAM "DOES NOT HAVE AGREEMENTS OR GUARANTEES" (COMMENT: SAFEGUARDS) SUCH AS THOSE BRAZIL HAS WITH WEST GERMANY. HE CONTINUED: "SHORTLY WE WILL OVERTAKE THE ARGENTINES IN NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT. WITH ONLY THE CONCLUSION OF THE ANGRA DOS REIS COMPLEX WE ALREADY WILL HAVE SURPASSED (ARGENTINA) IN THE AREA

OF ELECTRICAL ENERGY PRODUCTION, WITHOUT CONSIDERING
THAT BEGINNING IN 1979 WE WILL BE PRODUCING REACTORS
IN SERIES."

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BRASIL 04351 02 OF 02 281359Z
ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ERDA-07 AF-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-09 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NASA-02 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-02
PRS-01 OES-07 SS-15 USIA-15 FEA-01 NRC-07 ACDE-00
/157 W

-----281404Z 115540 /47

P 281110Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1899
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 BRASILIA 4351

6. NUCLEAR PROGRAMS IN DICTATORIAL REGIMES--ONE
OPPOSITION DEPUTY ASKED WHETHER BATISTA AGREED THAT

"NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAMS IN DICTATORIAL REGIMES WHERE
THE NATIONAL CONGRESS HAS NO POWER, WHERE THE PEOPLE ARE
NOT CONSULTED, AND WHERE THE PRESS IS CENSURED OUGHT TO
BE LOOKED AT WITH EXTREME CAUTION." ACCORDING TO JORNAL
DE BRASILIA, BATISTA SAID THIS QUESTION DEALT WITH
MATERIAL BYOND HIS RESPONSIBILITIES. ANOTHER OPPOSI-
TION DEPUTY REPORTEDLY ASKED WHETHER A CATASTROPHE
COULD OCCUR IN WHICH A GOVERNMENT WOULD USE NUCLEAR
ENERGY, ACQUIRED FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES, FOR ENDS THAT
WERE WARLIKE, PERHAPS GIVING RISE ALSO TO "NEW HITLERS."
BATISTA RESPONDED: "THERE EXISTS A POSSIBLITY OF A
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BRASIL 04351 02 OF 02 281359Z

CATASTROPHE'S OCCURRING, BECAUSE THE GENIE ALREADY IS OUT OF THE BOTTLE WITH THE DIFFUSION OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY." BUT BATISTA BELIEVED THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY COULD EXERCISE INSPECTION OR CONTROL OVER THE UTILIZATION OF THE TECHNOLOGY.

7. THE PUBLIC'S ROLE--BATISTA CRITICIZED PERSONS AND ENTITIES WHICH LIKED TO SEE THE NUCLEAR SUBJECT IN BRAZIL EVALUATED AND DISCUSSED BY BRAZILIAN PUBLIC OPINION, ACCORDING TO O ESTADO. IN HIS VIEW, "NOT EVEN IN THE MOST PERFECT DEMOCRACIES ARE THE PEOPLE MADE CONSCIOUS OF THESE SUBJECTS BY THEIR GOVERNMENTS." BATISTA, O ESTADO SAID, THOUGHT THERE OUGHT TO BE CONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT, BECAUSE THE IMPLANTATION OF BRAZIL'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM IS AN INDUSTRIAL GOAL.

8. PHYSICAL SECURITY--BATISTA, O ESTADO SAI, LAMENTED THAT THERE IS SUCH A PREOCCUPATION IN BRAZIL WITH RESPECT TO THE THE SECURITY OF NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS. HE ARGUED THAT INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR TERRORISM DID EXIST, AS IN THE CASE OF THE SHIP CONTAINING 200 TONS OF URANIUM WHICH WAS DIVERTED BY ISRAEL. BUT TO HIM, NATURAL URANIUM SHOULD CAUSE NO ONE ANY FEAR, INCLUDING URANIUM OUTSIDE SAFEGUARDS. PRESS REPORTS TO THE EFFECT THAT IT DID, HE REPORTEDLY COMMENTED, WERE SENSATIONALIST AND PERVERSE.

9. AFRICA--BATISTA, O ESTADO SAID, OBSERVED THAT AFRICAN NATIONALS DO NOT HAVE THE MEANS OR THE NECESSITY TO OBTAIN THE NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLY, FOR IT IS "COMPLEX AND EXPENSIVE."

10. ATOMIC WASTE--BATISTA ASSERTED THATT NO ONE OUGHT TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT NUCLEAR RESIDUES, FOR IN THE YEAR 2000 ALL OF BRAZIL'S ATOMIC WASTE WOULD FIT IN THE ROOM WHERE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BRASIL 04351 02 OF 02 281359Z

BATISTA WAS TESTIFYING. HE THOUGHT THERE WAS A CERTAIN SENSATIONALISM ATTACHED TO THIS SUBJECT.

11. FOREIGN PRESSURES--ACCORDING TO JORNAL DE BRASILIA BATISTA SAID THERE ARE NO POSSIBILITY THAT THE BRAZILIAN-GERMAN AGREEMENT COULD BE MODIFIED BY EXTERNAL PRESSURES.

12. OTHER POINTS--BATISTA REVIEWED BRAZIL'S NEEDS FOR ELLECTRICAL ENERGY, BRAZIL'S URANIUM RESERVES SITUATION, AND THE REACTOR POLLUTION QUESTION. ACCORDING TO JORNAL DO BRASIL, BATISTA SAID THE ACCUMULATED PRODUCTION OF PLUTONIUM BY LIGHT WATER REACTORS IN BRAZIL WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO GUARANTEE THE RECYCLING OF FUEL AND, IF TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT PERMITS, THE PLACING IN OPERATION OF A FIRST RAPID REACTOR BEGINNING IN 1993, AND THE CONSTRUCTION UP THROUGH THE YEAR 2000 OF A

SIGNIFICANT PROGRAM OF RAPID REACTORS COMPATIBLE WITH THE 75,000 KILOWATT CAPACITY OF NUCLEAR GENERATING FACILITIES FORESEEN FOR THE END OF THE CENTURY. ACCORDING TO JORNAL DE BRASILIA, BATISTA CLAIMED THAT WITHIN TWO YEARS BRAZIL WOULD HAVE IN OPERATION "PROBABLY THE WORLD'S MOST MODERN FACTORY FOR PRODUCING NUCLEAR REACTORS."

13. IN ITS FRONT-PAGE STORY ON BATISTA'S TESTIMONY, JORNAL DO BRASIL ALSO CARRIED A STORY FROM RIO DE JANEIRO ON COMMENTS BY HERMAN ABS, PRESIDENT OF THE SUPERVISORY BOARD OF THE DEUTSCHE BANK AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE SUPERVISORY BOARD OF SIEMENS. ACCORDING TO JORNAL, ABS SAID THAT "TOO UNDERSTAND THE OPPOSITION TO THE BRAZIL-GERMAN AGREEMENT ONE MUST BE CLEAR THAT IT WAS US INDUSTRY WHICH MARSHALLED THE OPPOSITION, UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 BRASIL 04351 02 OF 02 281359Z

AND THAT ONLY AFTERWARDS DID THE US GOVERNMENT INTERVENE IN THE QUESTION." ABS DID NOT BELIEVE, THE PAPER SAID, THAT THE US WOULD HAVE ANY INFLUENCE ON THE EXECUTION OF THE AGREEMENT BECAUSE THE DEUTSCHE BANK, THE PRINCIPAL FINANCIER OF SIEMENS (THE PRINCIPAL SUPPLIER OF THE EQUIPMENT), AND THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT TOOK SERIOUSLY THE LATIN MAXIM "PACTA SUNT SERVANDA". CRIMMINS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NPT, NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROL, POLICIES, LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BRASIL04351
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770191-0969
Format: TEL
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977057/aaaaafje.tel
Line Count: 266
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 767d3096-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2563483
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NUCLEBRAS PRESIDENT DISCUSSES BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR POLICY
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, PARM, BR, GE, (BATISTA, NOGUEIRA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/767d3096-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009